

HLIG meeting, 3 December 2013

Meeting Report

1. Chairing-attendance

The HLIG meeting was chaired by Linda Corugedo-Steneberg (LCS), Director for Cooperation in DG CONNECT and was attended by 25 HLIG Members (AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, IT, LU, LV, HR, HU, MT, NL, PO, PT, RO, SE, SI, UK, CH, NO) + EEAS.

2. Future of internet governance: taking stock of the Brazilian initiative

The main issue discussed in HLIG was the Future of internet governance, taking stock of the Brazilian initiative and the follow-up of the Montevideo declaration.

LCS stressed that the Montevideo declaration reflects a growing dissatisfaction with the way ICANN and more generally the internet governance process are perceived. This sense of dissatisfaction has also spurred the Brazilian government to launch the idea-together with ICANN- for their IG conference in April 2014.

Even though several members expressed concern about how GAC is working, there was general consensus that the Buenos Aires ICANN meeting went quite well and several countries thanked the Commission.

Several members (NO, SE, ES, NL, UK, DK,...) expressed concern and would like to get more information (preparations, agenda and how to participate) about the first meeting of the recently established high level panel on the Future of Internet Governance Cooperation which is going to be held 12-13 December in London. DE mentioned that they had been contacted but not formally by Brazil and echoed worries by others on words on summit.

Neither EE (President of EE is chairing this group), nor NO (Former PM and Sec Gen of CoE is participating at this panel) provided any information about this panel as they claimed that EE President is quite autonomous from the government and NO government hasn't received any request to participate.

As the next meeting is scheduled on 18 February, it was convened to have a common position shaped-up by then in order to be able to feed the preparations before 28 February 2014. To this end, the Communication from the Commission can be instrumental .LCS pointed out that we could not at this point circulate a text to the Group, but we would do so as soon as possible and in any case timely before the February meeting.

FI: mentioned that CSTD group received many replies to their consultation and is considering hiring a consultant to do a mapping. IGF now has a small foundation in Switzerland established to accept small contributions.

LCS signalled the discussions that took place in Vancouver, during the IETF meeting there. The technical topic debated there was Internet Hardening. Targeted interception was taking place, but the scale and scope in the recent reports is surprising. Such scale was not envisaged during the design of many Internet protocols; the threat is quite different than expected so now the Internet technical community is considering the consequences and agreed to work on how to get Internet communications less vulnerable. The Commission welcomes this awareness and will follow the IETF work and keep the Group informed of the developments.

3. ITU Meetings (plenipotentiary and WTDC)

On WTDC meeting in Serbia from 26-28 November it was noted that there were no substantive discussions on issues related to Internet governance. Members were informed however that the WTDC will now take place in the UAE (Dubai or Abu Dhabi) rather than Sharman el Sheikh.

PO announced that Ms Magdalena Gaj, currently President of the Office of Electronic Communications will be candidate for the post of Deputy Secretary General. UK announced that Mr Malcolm Johnson, currently Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, will be candidate for the same post.

NL announced that Ms Lilian Jeanty, currently Coordinator International Affairs of the Radiocommunications Agency will be candidate for the Radio Regulations Board.

FR confirmed that Mr Francois Rancy would stand for re-election at ITU-R. The elections will take place at the Plenipotentiary in South Korea in October / November 2014

4. ICANN issues

The Group welcomed the progress in establishing the GAC Secretariat. ES that led the working group on GAC Working Methods was congratulated by the Group for the outcome of their work and for the broad acceptance of most of the proposals in the GAC. HLIIG members will send comments to the Internet informal group in order to establish a common position on the issue of establishing consensus vs voting in the GAC.

In relation to the discussions on *.vin/.wine*, the Commission (Lars Erik Forsberg) proposed to draft a letter that would be also signed by Group members (28 MS + NO and CH) on the Draft GAC communiqué.

For the possible High Level meeting in London Members will coordinate in order to best prepare.

5. GIPO, State of play

LCS referred to the conference call which took place on 5 July 2013, in which the European Commission discussed with a large number of participants the ideas on GIPO. The GIPO initiative was welcome as an important step. The intention is to make GIPO as inclusive as

possible, compatibly with a shared commitment to an open, unfragmented and rules-based Internet.

LCS mentioned the call for tenders for the "GIPO feasibility study which will provide an assessment of the technological requirements and available tools, to develop an online platform that would automatically collect and analyse information on Internet-related policy-making processes, as well as a set of recommendations on the best "internal governance framework" for such platform in order to ensure the maximum levels of transparency, accountability, independence and inclusivity.

The feasibility study is expected to deliver its final results after 4 months. Three offers were received and the study is expected to be launched January 2014 and have the final results in April 2014.

CH mentioned they are having at similar initiative at national level with Diplo Foundation.

6. AOB

HLIG meetings in 2014 will take place the following dates

18 Feb 2014,

13 May 2014,

30 Sept 2014,

2 Dec. 2014.

RIPE will organise a Roundtable for Governments and regulators, where HLIG members will be invited on 19 Feb 2014 i.e. the following day of HLIG proposed date meeting for February.

CH proposed to host the 13 May HLIG in Geneva.

CENTR is holding its open day during its General Assembly in Brussels, where HLIG members will be invited on 1 Oct 2014 i.e. the following day of HLIG proposed date meeting for September.

The Group welcomed the Commission's intention to facilitate the IETF organise a special session of seminars for HLIG members and the possibility to attend some technical meetings during the next IETF, to be held in March (2-7 March, exact date to be decided) in London. HLIG members also signalled their willingness that IETF members are invited again during HLIG meetings.

7. " Internet & Jurisdiction Project" presentation by Bertrand de La Chapelle

Bertrand de la Chapelle, Director of the Internet & Jurisdiction project, provided HLIG members with an overview of the rationale, scope and goals of the project. Presentation attached.